The South Carolina Adopt-a-Stream (SC AAS) program was formed in 2017 and certifies volunteer monitors in the collection of physical, chemical, bacteria, and macroinvertebrate data to better understand the health of our state’s waterways. This program expedites local action to address local water quality problems; collects data on headwater streams not often monitored; collects data useful to prioritizing stream restoration; and engages the volunteer in “leaning in” on how land use management affects our stream corridors and habitat. SC AAS is education through involvement in watershed sciences and watershed planning and is the only non-regulatory citizen monitoring program in SC with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) accreditation.

In its first year, the program has been wildly successful, certifying nearly 300 volunteers and collecting data in 1200 monitoring events in the state. In its upstart, the program focused primarily on adult volunteers; however, increasing demand is coming from secondary education, as this program fits STEAM standards and objectives for numerous grade levels and subjects.

To meet these increasing and relevant educational needs and grow the program for use by youth and teachers, the SC AAS State Team (Clemson University and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control) is seeking to develop a graduate credit course that meets the requirements for professional certification and recertification of SC teachers. This course will likely be hybrid in nature, combining web-based learning with instructional day(s). With completion of this certificate course, the teacher will be provided activities and lesson plans for use in their high school classroom.

The SC AAS State Team is searching for the best graduate student to complete this project. Graduate assistantship will be offered to the best candidate. The student will be mentored by Clemson University faculty, SC DHEC regulatory staff, and be a part of a network of partners invested in protecting SC’s waterways and habitats for future generations. Interested candidates should have content knowledge and technical skills requisite to watershed management/environmental science and experience or interest in curriculum design. For more information, contact Katie Callahan at kgiacal@clemson.edu. To learn more about the program, please visit www.scadoptastream.org.

Thank you for your interest!